CLAIMS:

1.   A method of encoding an audio signal (x), the method comprising the steps of:
providing a respective set of sampled signal values for each of a plurality of sequential
segments;
analysing the sampled signal values to generate one or more sinusoidal components for each
5   of the plurality of sequential segments;
linking sinusoidal components across a plurality of sequential segments;
generating sinusoidal codes comprising tracks of linked sinusoidal components for each of
the plurality of sequential segments wherein each track comprises a frequency and amplitude
for a sinusoidal component in a starting segment of a track, and wherein selected tracks do
10   not include a phase for said starting segment; and
generating an encoded audio stream including said sinusoidal codes.

2.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said selected tracks include an
indicator that no phase is included for said starting segment.
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3.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said selected tracks are less than 5
segments in length.

4.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said selected tracks are less than 40ms
20   in length.

5.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said selected tracks represent non-
tonal components of an audio signal.

25   6.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said selected tracks represent a
component of a voiced time interval in said audio signal.

7.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said selected tracks represent a
component of a noisy interval in said audio signal.

8.   A method according to claim 1 in which each track comprises a frequency and amplitude difference for each sinusoidal component in a subsequent continuation segment of said track.

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9.   Method of decoding an audio stream, the method comprising the steps of: reading an encoded audio stream including sinusoidal codes comprising tracks of linked sinusoidal components for each of the plurality of sequential segments, wherein each track comprises a frequency and amplitude for a sinusoidal component in a starting segment of a

10   track, and wherein selected tracks do not include a phase for said starting segment; generating for said selected tracks a random start phase; and employing said sinusoidal codes to synthesize said audio signal including re-constructing sinusoidal components across a plurality of sequential segments.

15   10.   A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said generating step comprises generating a random phase for each sinusoidal component of said selected tracks.

11.   Audio coder arranged to process a respective set of sampled signal values for each of a plurality of sequential segments of an audio signal (x), said coder comprising:...

20   an analyser arranged to analyse the sampled signal values to generate one or more sinusoidal components for each of the plurality of sequential segments; a linker arranged to link sinusoidal components across a plurality of sequential segments; a component arranged to generate sinusoidal codes comprising tracks of linked sinusoidal components for each of the plurality of sequential segments wherein each track comprises a

25   frequency and amplitude for a sinusoidal component in a starting segment of a track, and wherein selected tracks do not include a phase for said starting segment; and a bit stream generator for generating an encoded audio stream including said sinusoidal codes.

30   12.   Audio player, comprising: means for reading an encoded audio stream including sinusoidal codes comprising tracks of linked sinusoidal components for each of the plurality of sequential segments, wherein each track comprises a frequency and amplitude for a sinusoidal component in a starting segment of a track, and wherein selected tracks do not include a phase for said starting segment;

a phase generator arranged to generate for said selected tracks a random start phase; and

a synthesizer employing said sinusoidal codes to synthesize said audio signal including re-constructing sinusoidal components across a plurality of sequential segments.

5   13.   Audio system comprising an audio coder as claimed in claim 11 and an audio player as claimed in claim 12.

14.   Audio stream comprising sinusoidal codes representative of at least a component of an audio signal, said codes comprising tracks of sinusoidal components linked

10   across said plurality of sequential segments, wherein each track comprises a frequency and amplitude for a sinusoidal component in a starting segment of a track, and wherein selected tracks do not include a phase for said starting segment.

15.   Storage medium on which an audio stream as claimed in claim 14 has been

15   stored.